



CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

Wrapping Up the School Year with Schoolnet

It is that time of year again! The summer is upon us and another school year has past. This year we are excited to have Schoolnet for end of year assessments and reporting. Schoolnet allows you to capture in near real-time how students are performing on their end of year exams. This automatic response streamlines the grading process to ensure timely entry and gives teachers

the information they need, when they need it to assist their students. We encourage you to leverage this powerful technology in your classroom.

This month we learn about the wonderful work being done in The Twin Falls School District. We see how teachers Michelle Hammond, Julie Warner and Leah Dowe

use Schoolnet information to adapt their teaching methods and lesson plans. We also get a glimpse of how Brady Dickinson and Tyler Matlock are rolling out Schoolnet across the district and their early successes with the system.

CHECK THEM OUT NOW ▶

IN THE CLASSROOM: EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT

The Twin Falls School District was awarded the ISEE Phase II B grant last year, and has been going through the process of implementing Schoolnet over the past several months. Elementary teachers Michelle Hammond and Julie Warner along with Leah Dowe, teacher at the Bridge Academy have been utilizing Schoolnet to access assessments and to better prepare their students. "Schoolnet changed my classroom by allowing me more access to assessment tools," Michelle said. "Being able to see so many different options and such a variety of questions really developed my understanding of the core standards by seeing others interpretation." Michelle continued by saying, "I used the assessments for pretests and posttests. I was able to see where my students started, what information they already knew, and what areas I really needed to focus my work on.

It also helped me with seeing the growth that each student had and what areas the most growth occurred."

Julie is a first year teacher and has found value in the assessment area of Schoolnet. "Making assessments on Schoolnet have really helped our team to better understand the common core standards more fully," Julie stated. "When we would go to develop assessments on Schoolnet, it gave us a really good idea of what the standard was asking because it showed what students are expected to be able to answer. That, in turn, helped drive our instruction because we could then create lessons that would incorporate questions like we knew would be on the unit assessment." Julie is also hopeful to see growth from pre and post assessments as a first year teacher. "I always hope to see growth from the pre

assessment to the post assessment. Because this is the first official year teaching common core, I got used to seeing students get super low scores on the pre assessment. All of the tests I gave my student this year showed growth for the students."

Leah has been a teacher for 7 years, and is currently a classroom teacher at Bridge Academy. Leah has also been seeing worth in the use of Schoolnet assessments over the grant implementation. "It was amazing to be able to see that all students missed or struggled with a given question, and I could use that as a starting point to analyze if it was the way the question was worded or if it was the standard, and I didn't hit it hard enough or in a diverse amount of contexts," Leah said of her use of Schoolnet.

If you would like to learn more about Michelle, Julie and Leah's success please give us a call at the State Department of Education at (208) 332-6927.

District Success Story



As seen in the teacher success story with Michelle, Julie and Leah, the Twin Falls School District

has taken on the adoption of Schoolnet on a voluntary basis and seen several teachers adopt the platform mainly in using assessments. Brady Dickinson and Tyler Matlock have been leading the district through the grant implementation as the Director of Technology, and the District Technology Integration Specialist respectively. “Every teacher in the Twin Falls School District was introduced to Schoolnet at the beginning of the year by the District Technology Integration Specialist. Schoolnet’s features and abilities were highlighted to teachers and administrators,” Brady and Tyler said of the district’s use of Schoolnet. “Interested individuals were then supported by the Technology Integration Specialist to help them further learn those features. Once individuals became proficient at utilizing and implementing Schoolnet they were asked to share their experiences with their grade level, content area, and school teams. Schoolnet implementation has been done on a voluntary basis at our schools. This has resulted in a very organic and committed set of users who are able to

use their highlights to sell implementation to their colleagues. Twin Falls School District also utilized an incentive program with which teachers were encouraged to participate in and show evidence of participation in a variety of Schoolnet modules.”

They continued by discussing the technology that was utilized to support the adoption of Schoolnet. “We have purchased many mobile devices including Samsung Galaxy Tablets and Chromebooks to aid in the utilization of Schoolnet. With the Chromebooks teachers have been able to have students participate in the online assessment feature of Schoolnet without needing to book computer lab time. The tablets have been used to help students access digital content available through Schoolnet such as Discovery Education as well as content recommended in lesson plans found in Schoolnet.”

Brady and Tyler also discussed the future use and implementation of Schoolnet, focusing on the fact that the district didn’t mandate the use of Schoolnet and have seen positive results with those teachers who choose to use the platform. “Our deployment and utilization of Schoolnet has been based on building value at the teacher level and having teacher

leaders drive continued and furthered implementation. There has been no District level initiative forcing teachers to utilize Schoolnet. However, due to teacher buy in, administrators have been able to standardize Schoolnet utilization at the School level. This has produced an organic buy in which is more powerful than a directive led initiative.”

If you would like to learn more about the success of the Twin Falls School District please give us a call at the State Department of Education at (208) 332-6927.